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To: undisclosed-recipients;;
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Subject: Occupy Eugene Report to Council -- December 23, 2011

News Release

December 23, 2011

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Latest Report Sent to Mayor/Council - December 23, 2011

There is a series of regular reports to Mayor/Council of events related to or associated with Occupy Eugene. They are part of the public record and will be posted online as reports are updated. The report consists of three categories: Police Calls for Service, Documented Observations and General Information. The observations are made by Police and other City departments.

You can access the reports at the City of Eugene's Police Website www.eugene-or.gov/police <<http://www.eugene-or.gov/police>> (see news)

Yesterday was a productive day at the camp. Many changes occurred in the park including a dramatic decrease in campers. More tents and debris were removed with by OE volunteers. Several advised they were seeking "a few weeks" to continue the clean-up and were waiting for a decision from the city.

Most occupants that have been in the park for the past six weeks are now gone. Many new faces have appeared. Most of the new people claim to be from Portland and appear to be well experienced in protests. In the afternoon and evening there was a change in the atmosphere with many people wearing bandanas covering their faces and making disparaging remarks to our officers.

During the night we learned that a woman, "Geneva", had climbed into a tree at the southwest corner of the park. She attached a large sign and addressed the crowd below with a bull horn reading a prepared statement. The focus of the remaining occupants shifted to the woman in the tree. A blast text inaccurately reported to recipients that police were preparing to arrest her. A number of other texts and tweets were sent, exaggerating the police reaction to rowdy protesters and the tree sitter, and calling people to join them in the park. The group of mostly men in their 20s and a few women relocated several tents around the base of the tree and hung tarps over the fence preventing them from being seen from the 7th Avenue side.

A stage was built north of the tree and a person played keyboard and sang while the woman continued yelling into the bullhorn. A large pile of pallets and tarps fueled

apparently by gasoline were ignited near the kitchen area. The flame was intense and rose instantly more than 20 feet into the air. Our fire department responded and extinguished the flames while other protesters carried large propane stoves over to the south west corner. Officers reminded the group they were not allowed to have an open fire in the park. A crowd of about 75 gathered and were chanting and yelling at officers. This all appeared to be an orchestrated attempt to escalate an encounter with police and to cause a confrontation. We also noticed there were several large piles of pallets and debris that had been gathered and stacked throughout the park. Recognizing the confrontational mood of the crowd and considering there was already one fire, it was decided not to allow them to use any fuel source including propane stoves to "prepare tea" as several OE leaders requested. Fortunately, Big John, an OE organizer who has managed the kitchen, intervened and a confrontation over the cooking stove was averted.

Throughout the day, rumors had circulated that an 11am deadline had been set and arrests would begin at that time. Later, the rumor indicated a deadline of 11pm. When the crowd realized at 11:30pm that police were not coming, most people left or went back to their tents.

Two subjects were cited for Violation of Park Rules - one for an Illegal Fire and another for Trespass. At 11:30pm, an intoxicated subject was contacted and eventually transported to a local hospital by EMS with an illness. Campers told us later the man was not intoxicated but he had climbed a tree at the southwest corner and fell out. He was treated for minor injuries.

This morning beginning at 7:30am a fence was constructed around the camp to help manage access and egress for those moving personal property out. There were approximately 15-30 people camped in the park at that time. Several voiced their concern and were seen making cell phone calls but almost all were aware the fence was going to be installed at some point. Occupy Eugene organizers sent out several 'twitters' encouraging interested parties to come to the site to protest. At 8:30am roughly six men showed up and a portion of the fence was breached. The men were verbally confrontationally with one purposely bumping into our police liaison. Officers showed patience and restraint and no arrests were made.

With the installation of the fence, people entering and leaving the park must be identified. This will help ensure that those still in the park are removing only their belongings or are lawfully assisting others to do the same. Flyers have been distributed reminding campers to remove their belongings. If they fail to do so, the flyers explain, personal property will be considered abandoned and will be discarded. Public Works staff continued their daily clean-up of the park, doing so with the assistance of OE leaders.

Social service agencies such as Food For Lane County, Looking Glass and others were back on the site today. Campers were directed to these services which were stationed in an area outside of the fence. The two new Eagan-style warming shelters will be open again tonight.

From the OE website.

Occupy Eugene (12/23/11, 8:53), a 'tweet' posted on the site.....

"Police fence now surrounds site, Call to come to site to bear witness"

OccupyOregon<<http://twitter.com/>> link (12/22/11, approx 11 p.m.), a 'tweet' posted on the site....

"They are evicting our camp right before Xmas. I will not come down willingly. I will stay up here if I have to." -Tree sitter @OccupyEugene<<http://twitter.com/>>